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Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 10, 11 and 15 as being anticipated by Hocherman and claims 10 and 15 as being anticipated by Girone.

Claims 17 and 18 were instead rejected as being unpatentable over Pullman in view of Hocherman.

The Examiner also raised objections with regard to the abstract and the specification.

The applicant has fully addressed those objections by submitting new paragraphs of the specification, drafted in compliance with the Examiner's suggestions.

The applicant has also drafted a new independent claim 10 which includes all of the features of originally filed claim 17 and in addition recites that the peripheral unit is a stand alone and freely movable unit with respect to the processing means.

The underlined lines show the amendments made to claim 10.

*A system for performing induced limb movements, particularly for rehabilitating, sports-related and similar purposes, comprising a central processing unit, at least one peripheral unit that is adapted to be used by a patient in order to reproduce a rehabilitation path displayed by said processing means, said peripheral unit being provided with position sensors that are adapted to transmit position signals to said processing unit in order to reconstruct the path traced by the patient on said processing unit, wherein said peripheral unit is a stand alone unit, freely movable with respect to said processing unit and wherein the peripheral unit is provided with pressure sensing means which are adapted to send a pressure signal to said processing unit.*

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The new claim 10 is believed to be both new and inventive over the prior art of record.

In particular, Hochermann does not disclose a peripheral unit that is "independent" or stand alone and freely movable with respect to the processing unit.

Both the specification and the drawings of the present application disclose that the peripheral unit is a stand alone unit since it is not connected by any rigid means to the processing means, but by means of a radio or infra-red link or by a cable.

This allows to have a complete independence of the peripheral unit with respect to the processing means.

On the contrary, in Hochermann the peripheral unit is rigidly connected, by arms 12 and 14 (with the arm 12 pivoted to the base plate 2) to the base plate 2 of the processing means. Therefore the patient is obliged to perform a certain range of movements over the tablet 4 and is not allowed to freely move the peripheral unit.

Still further, Hockerman does not disclose the presence of pressure sensing means adapted to send a pressure signal to said peripheral unit, such pressure signal being an indication of the pressure exercised by the patient on the peripheral unit and thus on the plane.

The combination of a stand alone and not-rigidly connected peripheral unit and of the pressure sensing means allows the patient to be induced to perform particular movements and exercise determined pressure at certain points in the space. The result of the above is a motion activity that is not only a muscular activity but a neuromuscular activity that starts from the central nervous system and extends to the peripheral nervous system of the limbs.

This is a great improvement with respect to prior art solutions wherein the interaction between the movements to performed (freely on a plane and not along only certain trajectories) and the pressure exercised by the patient during the movement is neither disclosed nor even suggested.

In view of the above the application is believed to be in order for acceptance and

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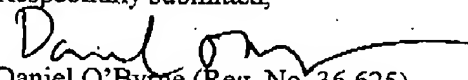
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allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

However, if further clarifications and amendments are deemed necessary by the Examiner, the applicant would be pleased to fulfill the Examiner's requests.

Tho this end, an informal interview would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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